

McKee Neighbourhood Plan Response Info Guide

After reading through the McKee Neighbourhood Plan (MNP) (“Proposed Bylaw 3275-2022” in Stage 4 found at <https://letstalkabbotsford.ca/mckee-peak-neighbourhood-plan>), review the points below to see what resonates with you. Use these points to inform your written submission to the City of Abbotsford or what you say at the upcoming Public Hearing. Click on hyperlinks for related information. Steps on how to voice your opinion can be found at <https://fraservalleyconservancy.ca/mckee-peak-public-hearing/>.

Ask yourself: Does the current MNP give me the confidence that what I hold as important is being clearly supported and made enough of a priority in this plan?

Forests and Climate

- The McKee area has the highest percentage of [tree canopy cover](#) in all of Abbotsford.
- Older trees are [supreme at storing carbon](#) and mitigating climate change.
- Mature trees and soil will be negatively impacted by this development.
- Intact soil holds [significant amounts of carbon](#), which will be released when disturbed.
- [Trees work together](#) and rely on each other to maintain healthy forests.

Habitat

- Large tracts of habitat for plants and animals, rare and common, will be lost.
- The plan proposes to leave “habitat hubs” joined by narrow corridors. Are these restrictive spaces [enough to support](#) future populations of wildlife?
- Construction will lead to [habitat degradation](#) of the hubs and corridors, as well as other disturbances and [habitat fragmentation](#).
- Precious [microhabitats](#) that have formed over a long time and exist in a delicate balance within the ecosystem will be negatively impacted. Such habitats cannot be artificially created.
- Disturbance within this ecosystem will be felt and experienced throughout the whole area. It is important to maximize natural areas to achieve [resiliency](#).

Diversity

- The area has a wide range of [species](#), unique geological features, and important cultural sites.
- [Experts](#) have identified this area to be a [biodiversity hotspot](#), home to many [species at risk](#).
- Steep slopes, caves, and water features provide truly unique and diverse habitat.

Hydrology

- The unique habitat in this area is sustained by the abundant [headwater streams](#), wetlands, and groundwater seeps. Altering this hydrology will impact the ecosystem and wildlife.
- Removal of trees and soil along with the creation of the impervious surfaces like roads and buildings will decrease the areas’ [ability to absorb water](#). This will increase the likelihood of landslides and flooding both in the area and in the lowlands below.
- Ensuring that built systems can handle water effectively is paramount, especially given the weather extremes that come with [climate change](#).

This is your city, and you can make a difference!